

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Patel for the analysis contained in the Office Action dated July 11, 2005.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 currently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Walker (U.S. Patent No. 4,150,836).

Walker teaches the use of a backup ring 42, which is described in the Abstract as being "of special cross-section". This cross-section is described in detail at Col. 3, lines 15-32. Walker describes the backup ring 42 as having a cross-section which is a "truncated triangle". Referring to FIG. 4, this is to accommodate O-ring 24, which, when the fitting is installed in the boss, is positioned radially below the backup ring, such that O-ring 24 extrudes in a substantially radial direction against an undersurface of backup ring 42 to seal any gaps. Walker therefore teaches away from extruding the O-ring against a backup ring in an axial direction. In applicants' claimed invention, the O-ring extrudes in an axial direction against the backing ring, not radially, and therefore the backing ring does not require such a complicated design.

Claim 1 has been amended to refer to "the peripheral seal is extruded in an axial direction against the backing ring". In view of the foregoing amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this Amendment B (Attorney Docket No. LAMA122071) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: November 14, 2005

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